

Contribution to the UNSG Summit NBS Coalition

i. Title/Heading

Natural Climate Solutions Alliance of Governments

ii. Context and rationale

The UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September 2019 (the “Summit”) offers interested national governments the opportunity to promote action on natural climate solutions (“NCS”).

Currently, the land sector emits a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions globally—around 10–12 billion tons of CO₂ per year. That is nearly double the total emissions from all cars, trucks, trains, planes and ships in the world and just shy of total global emissions from the electricity sector. Fortunately, research also shows that stronger action in the land sector could deliver up to, and possibly over, 30% of emission reductions needed by 2030 to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, while lifting a billion people out of poverty, creating 80 million jobs and adding an additional \$2.3 trillion in productive growth to the global economy. NCS, including land- and ocean-based solutions, are affordable, feasible and globally scalable ways to achieve this, provided that governments greatly accelerate their efforts to lead the way. In 2018, a global coalition of civil society organizations—including global organizations such as WWF, TNC, CI and WRI, as well as local partners in developing nations—called on governments to set a global collective goal of securing 30% of needed climate action from nature by 2030 (the “30x30 Challenge”).

Unfortunately, only less than a third of national governments have specific targets for the land or ocean sectors in their national contributions under the Paris Agreement and less than 3% of public funding for climate action goes to NCS. Collectively, these contributions from nature fall far short of its mitigation potential by 2030. Governments that wish to accelerate action on NCS should consider using the Summit to launch an Alliance for Natural Climate Solutions (the “Alliance”). Through this Alliance, governments can work together to demonstrate increased ambition, exchange best practices, and help to focus attention on this high priority mitigation opportunity.

iii. Overview of the Contribution

Every country joining the Alliance should commit to:

- a) Examine how to maximize natural climate solutions when considering how to enhance their nationally determined contributions (“NDC”) under the Paris Agreement.
- b) Develop a quantified national mitigation goal for natural climate solutions in future NDCs.
- c) Endorse the goal of delivering 30% of global mitigation from NCS by 2030.
- d) Support a global assessment of progress toward the 30x30 Challenge as part of the Paris Agreement’s periodic ‘global stocktake’.

Alliance members in a position to do so also could commit to:

- e) Explore the potential of international mitigation partnerships under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to scale-up implementation of NCS.
 - f) Support transparency in the forest, land, coastal and ocean economy, including through enabling public access to information and contributing to tools and platforms that enable better sustainability decisions.
 - g) Increase and improve access to financing for natural climate solutions.
 - h) Strengthen land-rights and governance for indigenous peoples as sustainable stewards of forests and other natural lands.
 - i) Take action to maximize sustainable ocean-based mitigation and resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems.
- iv. **How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?**
- Government commitments under the Alliance for NCS accelerate and scale up implementation and support for NCS using the tools of the Paris Agreement (esp. NDCs, Articles 5, 6 and 9) to achieve its long-term temperature goal.
- v. **How the contribution supports climate mitigation and adaptation and other important co-benefits?**
- a) **Reduction in carbon emission and carbon capture (Gigatonnes CO₂e)**
 - Countries develop a quantified national mitigation goal for NCS in future NDCs.
 - b) **Increasing climate resilience**
 - In examining how to maximize NCS in enhancing ambition of their NDC, the scope and type of actions will necessarily be taken from a country perspective, including adaptation, resilience and priority sustainability and socio-economic development objectives.
 - c) **Social impact (job increase; poverty reduction, etc.)**
 - As above.
 - d) **Net economic impact (total in US\$; how was it achieved?)**
 - Country-specific – As above.
 - e) **Impact on realization of the 2030 Agenda for SD (esp. SDG 1,2,6,12,13,14,15,16)**
 - Main impact in contributing to SDGs 13, 15, 12, 17, and 6. Though, impacts will vary by country according to actions and starting circumstances.
 - f) **Just transition**
 - Scaling up and accelerating implementation of NCS allows for greater scope of accommodating ‘just transition’ on a pathway to the <2/1.5°C goal.
 - Defined and quantified commitments to use of cooperative approaches under the Paris Agreement can enable ‘least cost’ solutions to achieving global net-zero emissions.

- g) Food security
 - N/A
 - h) Minimizing species extinction and ecological losses and fostering an increase of biodiversity
 - The impact will result in a reduction of habitat and biodiversity loss and restoration of ecosystems in the countries endorsing this Alliance.
- vi. Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?
- Nature4Climate, with TNC, CI and WCS
- vii. How have stakeholders been consulted in developing the contribution?
- The concept and core elements are based originally on preparation for, and outcome of, a high-level meeting on the margins of COP24 in Katowice, hosted by the Govt of Norway, facilitated by Climate Advisers. In-depth consultations on this contribution have been with N4C and its members began prior to the call from submissions to the NBS Facilitation team.
- viii. Where the contribution can be put into action?
- The Alliance, announced at the Summit, would be put into action through the countries' submissions of updated NDCs to the UNFCCC, based on in-depth assessment of NCS potential and rapid implementation of corresponding actions, including through partnerships.
 - Assessment and reporting of the collective impact of the Alliance would be through active engagement in the 'global stocktake' under the Paris Agreement.
- ii. How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?
- Nations wishing to promote the Alliance should encourage discussion of the idea among interested nations during upcoming diplomatic venues, including in Bonn, Germany (UNFCCC), Abu Dhabi (Summit prep-meeting) and Trondheim, Norway (environment ministerial).
 - N4C and partners organizations will continue outreach to governments with this proposal
- iii. Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstream (industry transition; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)?
- This initiative would contribute to the following Summit workstreams: climate finance and carbon pricing; resilience and adaptation; and mitigation strategy.
- iv. Examples of experiences to date: how does this contribution build upon this experience? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?

- This contribution supports the goals and objectives of numerous multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder processes and initiatives, including the Global Platform for the New York Declaration on Forests, the NDC Partnership, the High-Ambition Coalition, several CBD Aichi targets, the Food and Land Use Coalition, the UNFF, the Paramaribo Declaration, and the 30x30 Forest, Food and Land challenge, among others.
- v. **Mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)**
- Forming the Alliance, formed on the basis of endorsement of elements described in section (iii), above, requires no additional funding. As the actions are tied to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement process and institutions, no new 'vehicle' or process needs to be maintained.
 - However, developing countries are likely to require commensurate certainty that additional financial support will be available to achieve the additional mitigation through NCS.
- vi. **Means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring**
- The UNFCCC and Paris Agreement process and institutions provide the international frameworks for the implementation, monitoring (including metrics), reporting and global assessment of success (impact).
 - The Global Platform for the New York Declaration on Forests, and its annual Assessment process could provide additional, targeted monitoring and support to the Alliance.
- vii. **Communication strategy**
- To maximize participation of national governments in a form of endorsement or commitment that ensures timely action and accountability, we propose:
 - (i) that the NBS country leads, China and NZ, endorse and champion the proposal outlined.
 - (ii) that they help to gather country endorsements through bilateral outreach and through multilateral meetings in the lead-up to the Summit; including the MOCA (June 3, Brussels), UNFCCC Intersessional meeting (Bonn, June 17-27), Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (July)
- viii. **Contact details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named)**
- Proponent: Climate Advisers, on behalf of Nature4Climate (Contact: Peter Graham; graham@climateadvisers.com)
 - This proposal has been prepared on behalf of Nature4Climate (N4C; Lucy Almond), with the support and input of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)